

Statement of Substance of Interview

[0003] The Examiner graciously talked by phone with the undersigned representatives for the Applicant on December 17, 2008. Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's willingness to talk. Such willingness is invaluable to each of us in our common goal of an expedited prosecution of this patent application.

[0004] During the interview, we discussed how the claim 1 and its dependent claims differed from the cited references, namely Itokawa (US2001/0033620), Haung et al. (US6016166), and Negishi et al. (US6717891). Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and in the interest of expediting prosecution, we also proposed several possible clarifying amendments.

[0005] We understood the Examiner to tentatively concur with the proposed amendments to independent claims 25 and 30. Similarly, we understood that the Examiner was receptive to the proposed arguments, specifically the clarification regarding the Itokawa reference. However, the Examiner indicated that he would need to review the cited art more carefully and/or do another search, and requested that the proposed amendments be presented in writing.

[0006] Applicant herein amends the claims in the manner discussed during the interview. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reasons discussed during the interview.